

# St Mary's Church Newsletter

## March 2019



St. Mary's Church  
Battersea Church Road  
London, SW11 3NA  
Tel: 020 7228 9648  
Website: [www.stmarysbattersea.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbattersea.org.uk)

Articles always welcome: [editor@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:editor@stmarysbattersea.org.uk)

Read online and signup to receive the newsletter by email at <http://www.stmarysbattersea.org.uk>

---

# Table of Contents

<b>A Speech Given by Archbishop Justin Welby</b> .....	1
<b>Junior Church events in March</b> .....	4
<b>A Quiet Garden?</b> .....	4
<b>David Anstice-Pim, tenor choral scholar</b> .....	5
<b>God's Power Gives Success in Changing</b> .....	7
<b>Meet Jenny Scott-Thompson</b> .....	9
<b>Bell Ringing Update</b> .....	9

---

# A Speech Given by Archbishop Justin Welby

By Canon Simon Butler | March 2019

## A Speech Given by Archbishop Justin Welby at the beginning of a debate on The State of the Nation at General Synod.

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019

We remain a nation of great stability compared to many, world influence, generosity in overseas aid, skilled in the exercise of soft power, with a robust and effective democracy, judiciary, and many other aspects which are envied around the world.

Governments often listen; look at the recent, welcome response by the Department for Work and Pensions over Universal Credit.

Many of us are among the most privileged people alive in the world today.

But not all. Today we see signs of division, perhaps more clearly than for generations in peace time. They concern inequality, injustice and they obscure hope for many.

There is exclusion from a sense of common purpose and of equal rights in our society, politically, economically and socially.

Brexit is not the subject of this debate. It is crucially important, a historic moment, and views here will be as divided as across the nation. But one way or another, better or worse, life will go on - and God's mission is not stopped by such events.

Rather we are called to rise to the challenge, here and across Europe, loving and caring in ways that show, whatever the shocks, we remain confident and active serving the risen Christ in the power of the Spirit.

But Brexit has revealed how our politics and society have, for many decades, not paid sufficient attention to the common good: that shared life of a society in which everyone is able to flourish.

That pain and exclusion continues in this country. If we do not as a nation pay attention, it will cause greater division and, as the Archbishop of York said recently, ultimately strife.

More than that, for this is not politics and pragmatism - we're not a substitute for parliament - it is discipleship and obedience to God in Christ. More than that is the command of scripture. Jesus' sermon on the plain in Luke, chapter 6:

*"Blessed are you who are poor,*

*for yours is the kingdom of God.*

*"Blessed are you who are hungry now,*

*for you will be filled.*

*"Blessed are you who weep now,*

*for you will laugh.*

*“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.*

*“But woe to you who are rich,*

*for you have received your consolation.*

*“Woe to you who are full now,*

*for you will be hungry.*

*“Woe to you who are laughing now,*

*for you will mourn and weep.” (Luke 6:20-25)*

Funny it's much less popular than the Sermon on the Mount.

We hear the prophets tell us that, “Justice must roll down like rivers and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.”

The bible does not do trickle-down economics (a theory long discredited, not least implicitly by Keynes in his General Theory) but it does rolling rivers of justice: the scriptures call us to solidarity with the poor, and to the common good.

In most of this Synod our attention has been outward-looking, and when we look round today we see challenges to the nation which must shape our mission - and must define what the nation thinks about us over the next generation. For that is the challenge.

If we pray for our leaders; put the poor and marginalised at the heart of the church and of the consciousness of the nation; exert every effort in being with them; build reconciliation in our country, then there is a future made bright not necessarily by human success, but by being at the centre of the activity of the Spirit of Jesus.

The reality of exclusion and division is seen in the difficulty of our political system to build a consensus and find a common path forward.

How we recover from and heal these divisions may be the biggest challenge that lies ahead of us - to unify as a country, to have a healthy and functioning democracy, and to have a strong, ethically and morally-based economy that works for all.

Those who bear the grievous burdens of political leadership, on all sides, by definition are faced with resolving the current crisis. We must not forget that the burdens on them are enormous.

We must pray, as Paul tells Timothy, for “all who are in high positions” (I Tim 2:2). It is easy to stand on the sidelines and judge; we do not have to make the decisions. But we must commit to pray for them. For those who are close to them, for their wisdom, and their blessing. That does not mean agreeing; it means loving, as we have been loved by Christ.

As Christians, we pray not because we are fearful, but because we seek to be faithful to St Paul's

encouragement to “pray without ceasing”, as our MPs say each day in Parliament, “Your kingdom come and Your name be hallowed.”

The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion call us to speak for justice. Supremely the scriptures authoritatively demand advocacy for and support of the most vulnerable.

The churches are doing much heavy lifting. The Church of England through 33,000 social projects, 4,700 schools, occasional offices, and our plans for renewed presence on estates and many other places.

But action and advocacy go together. They also put us in the place of reconciliation, and that is a core part of our vocation and mission. For reconciliation with God through Christ, and then among humans, is the gospel.

Now is the time for every part of the church in every place to be a peacemaker. To play our part in uniting our country, and to put the most vulnerable at the centre of national life.

We cannot ignore the warnings that have been proffered about the possible profound impact that the next months may possibly have on the poorest of our society.

We must be ready for any difficulties and uncertainties, and not allow any destructive forces to create further divisions in society.

It is true that no predictions on the economy are certain. That is not project fear. It is saying that where there are risks it is the strongest, not the weakest, who must take the weight of the risk.

And in many ways, that is not currently the way we are heading.

That, Synod, brings me to the third point of the motion: to our leaders.

Jesus tells us that whoever wishes to be a leader must be a servant. Edmund Burke, in a speech in the House of Commons, spoke of the church,

“which says that their God is love, that the very vital spirit of their institution is a charity; a religion which so much hates oppression that when the God, whom we adore, appeared in human form, he did not appear in a form of greatness and majesty, but in sympathy with the lowest of the people – and thereby made it a firm and ruling principle that their welfare was the object of all government.”

His words still hold true from the 18th century.

Since the arrival of Christianity on these shores, the Christian narrative has responded to the issues and injustices of the age – seen in the stories of Elizabeth Fry and Florence Nightingale, Wilberforce and Wesley, William Booth and William Temple.

We need now to reimagine those values to respond to modern problems, a narrative captures the imagination, which gives rise to new and exciting possibilities, and is capable of bringing out the best in us and giving hope to all.

We can help to create a vision for a country that is inspired, abundant with hope and brimming with promise, so that our evenings in this country – this wonderful country – are not passed gazing nostalgically into the dying embers of meagre memories; but are imbued with a new global aspiration of a country united in strength and working out of its Christian heritage to lift the poor and vulnerable; and finding its own purpose under God.

# Junior Church events in March

By Cal Alphonse | March 2019

\* **Pancake party:** all children and their families are invited to attend our Pancake Party on **Tuesday 5th March** between 4:30 pm and 5:45 pm. Please let Cal Alphonse know if you can come [cal@learningdifferences.co.uk](mailto:cal@learningdifferences.co.uk)

\* **Junior Church Parish lunch:** you are invited to come for a bring and share lunch on **Sunday 24th March** after the 11am service. Please let Cal Alphonse know if you would like to come so that we can organise the catering accordingly. This lunch is not just for Junior Church families, everyone is welcome.

## A Quiet Garden?

By Aaron Kennedy | March 2019



The idea was first suggested to me by Grace, who is a keen gardener, that the oval area of grass outside the front door of the church, could be developed into a really lovely public garden space. I liked the idea, and thought that it could be styled as a Quiet Garden – a place for spiritual reflection, rest and refreshment.



*On the green*

However, with everything else that happened in the first few months of our arrival in Battersea, the idea got put on the back burner. With half an hour to pass in church recently, I had a closer look at the William Curtis memorial window, and sniffing out a whiff of inspiration, did some research. I discovered that he was an apothecary and botanist, that he worked at the Chelsea Physic Garden, and that St Mary's churchyard was one of the places he gathered his samples. He is from an old and well-known family, and there is a family museum in Alton, Hampshire, that is open to the public. And, I have been informed, he is also buried in that very same piece of church yard we thought could make a lovely quiet garden.

I began to see the potential for a quiet garden themed on William Curtis, which could be developed and maintained by the community, and would provide a healing (touching on his being an apothecary) and restful (think of the calming scents of lavender, jasmine and rose) space with some seats. The garden would act, as Simon has suggested, as an extension of the worshipping space of the church, and be a welcoming and hospitable way to greet newcomers. My particular interest is in drawing unchurched people into the creation and ongoing maintenance of the garden.

The Quiet Garden movement has been set up to nurture access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection, and withdrawal from the busyness of life. We could consider becoming associate or affiliate members of the movement, or we could simply use it for inspiration and remain independent.

The PCC has received this idea with approval, and asked me to go away and develop a proposal. I am therefore seeking to build a team from a wide range of stakeholders, and interested members of the public; together we would develop a design for a quiet and beautiful reflection garden. I would also like to involve the Chelsea Physic Garden, where Curtis worked, the Curtis Museum and others. We could form a society of Friends of the Curtis Quiet Garden, who would provide ongoing maintenance. There is also potential for quiet day events to be held there for small groups.

If you would like to be involved, send an email to me on [aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk](mailto:aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk).

## **David Anstice-Pim, tenor choral scholar**

By James Potter | March 2019



***How did you get into singing/playing the organ?***

Through my Dad mainly. He conducted a local choir and played the organ at our village church. At first I was mostly only interested in being on stage; I joined the local amateur operatic society (at which my Dad was also a performer and occasional musical director) aged 14 and cut my theatrical teeth performing Gilbert and Sullivan, something I still do regularly nearly 20 years later!

***What's been your best or most enjoyable singing/playing experience to date?***

My experiences with the National Youth Choir will always be special to me. From performing Bach's motets at his own church in Leipzig to just sitting around at the end of a long day and randomly breaking into perfect 4-part harmony when a song comes on the TV, it's a truly unique environment! I think the most special experience I had in my time was at the 21st anniversary gala concert in Birmingham Symphony Hall. The first piece was Zadok the Priest by Handel, performed by the combined, 700-strong choirs (including an alumni choir), accompanied on the organ by David Hill, Director of the Bach Choir (his daughter was a member of the choir at the time). I was picky enough to be stood almost right in the middle of the choir, and the noise of the first chord when it hit is something I will never forget.



***What are you up to now?***

After 10 years working in education, as a music teacher and later Head of Department, I have recently changed careers. I am now a Civil Servant working in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and advise on home ownership policy. I still perform whenever I can.

***Do you have a favourite piece of choral music? Why that one?***

Mozart's Requiem. I studied Mozart quite a lot at University; his music had a quality that I really don't think is matched by anyone else - managing to be simultaneously simple and complex, comical and emotional, subtle and extravagant. I feel the requiem epitomises this - it is a work that can be enjoyed on so many levels. There is a degree of emotional engagement with the composer that was completely new in the 1790s; more than a decade before Beethoven's 'Eroica' symphony and more than half-century before this became the norm, Mozart was displaying his own emotional instability and fear of the unknown in a very tangible way. His melodies, as always, enhance the beauty of the text (which, in liturgical music, is too often ignored even by great composers) but the setting and accompaniment lay bare his underlying fear of what he must have known was his own inevitable demise. It is the only piece of music I know that I don't think could be improved in any way.

## **God's Power Gives Success in Changing**

By Gladys Ikeme | March 2019

I have found that changing your habits and your life depends on you. This is my suggestion to help you change your life.

As a Christian, first of all, ask God for guidance. God will surely show you the way. If you believe, you already have God's power. If you have left God, change your way and go back to God.

Ask God to help you set your goal. Make your plans after prayer and meditation. Consider your time and how best to use it. Be thankful and full of gratitude for God's guidance and God's grace to enable us to change.

To change habits we need to diagnose what is stopping us from changing. Remember that the most precious solution is not on the surface. We need to dig deeper down for a solution. Sometimes we need to be like a stone cutter who keeps hitting the rock until it eventually splits.

Always remember that what you sow you will also reap. Tell yourself that you have made up your mind to change and be successful, so keep on working at it. You need to make choices. Your decisions will determine your outcome. Do not just follow other people, but set your mind on God's guidance.

Consider what you have been given by God and maximise your potentials. Identify whatever are your negative issues that are holding you back. When you have identified that, pursue your intention to change. Delayed action prevents success. Do not give up easily. It may take a long time, even decades, so don't give up too soon.

Examine how you use your time. Make punctuality a habit. Organise your time.

Consider your speech. Words are powerful. If you say negative things about yourself change that. Do not downgrade yourself. Be your own prophet; think and say positive things about yourself. There's a creative power in words.

Consider your health - your eating habits, your sleeping habits. When you are sleeping your body is still working. Exercise regularly to keep your body in good shape. Consider your recreation and relaxation. Read a good book, rest appropriately. If you don't rest, they'll soon lay you to rest! Value your vacations. Powerful ideas may come to you when you relax.

Identify your environment. Are you in the best place?

Examine your spending and make a spending plan. Set reasonable targets. Plan that at 75 you will still be able to pay all your bills!

Create an action plan. Take one habit at a time.

Always return to positive habits, thoughts and occupations.

Being successful is the product of good habits. Change from negative to positive. Thank God always.

May God grant you all patience to succeed in life.

May God bless you all!

Gladys Ikeme

(Child of God)

## Meet Jenny Scott-Thompson

By Newsletter Admin | March 2019

Where were you born?

*I was born in Southampton, then moved to Bournemouth as a toddler.*

Where did you grow up?

*We moved from Bournemouth to Guildford when I was 11, so both places had a big influence on me. When my parents moved to Colchester, that was my cue to move out, as it was too far from work. I moved to Battersea and have been here ever since. I recently moved house, only a few streets away, but St Mary's is now much easier to get to than my old church, St Mark's.*

What influences in your childhood/youth/teenage years led you to your current position at St. Mary's?

*I grew up in a vicarage, so faith was always part of my life, including volunteering for things at church. I'm glad to continue this at St Mary's by helping out with readings and occasional events, and being part of the Sunday Morning Group.*

How would you describe yourself from a spiritual perspective?

*I'm a Christian - I learnt a lot from my parents, but also went through several phases of questioning things and exploring more as a child and teenager, to reach a point of being confident that my faith is my own decision based on evidence and personal experience. I've been to churches with a variety of different traditions and seen that God can be found in the most unlikely places if you keep an open mind and keep focused on Him. Following Jesus has been hard but definitely worth it.*

Do you have any hobbies or interests?

*I'm a computer geek and sci-fi fan, and enjoy reading fantasy novels, and folk dancing when my knees permit.*

*Are there any aspects of your life you would like to share with the congregation? I'm new to the church and would love to meet more people - do say hi and let's meet for coffee.*

## Bell Ringing Update

By Bob Cooles | March 2019

The Bell Ringers of St Mary's were formed into a Society by the Vicar Erskine Clarke in the 1870's prior to him forming the robed choir - both organisations surviving in good heart nearly 150 years later.



The Ringing Society had their annual meeting in February under the chairmanship of Erskine Clarke's successor Simon, the usual reports were given, elections held and decisions made. The Ringers are also active parties in the Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers which serves the Diocese.

All ringing societies have the priority of the recruitment and training of new and existing ringers.

We are fairly healthy in numbers but technical skill is always an objective and recruits are always welcome. If you are interested or willing do please speak to Bob Cooles or Caroline Prescott or any of the ringers you might happen to bump into. Our ages range from ten to three score years and ten!

Visit our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysBatterseaBellringers/>